Ash drums out buglers

FEDERAL WAY, Wash. (AP) — The Washington state Open Drum and Bugle Corps competition, set to begin here Friday, has been canceled because groups from California fear Mount St. Helens, meet officials say.

Al Piepho, executive director of the Pacific Drum Corps Alliance of Concord, Calif., said news reports of the May 18 eruption of the volcano "caused paranoia" among parents and members of the corps, and corps directors decided to cancel the trip to ensure the safety of the 128 children involved.

News reports about ash from the eruption, he said, "made the whole state of Washington look like it was engulfed in the stuff."

The competition won't be rescheduled this year, but may be held in Seattle next year. Ten drum and bugle corps units from Washington and California were to have taken part.

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Mt St Helens Blows